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BOSS representatives from throughout Korea gather in Camp Casey's Community Activity Center Jan. 30, to charge their batteries for deploying new ideas and marketing concepts for BOSS activities in the future.

BOSS councils energize at Casey

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Better Opportunities for Single and Unaccompanied Soldiers plugged in for high-energy action at the Camp Casey Community Activity Center Jan. 30, to Feb. 2, during the 17th Annual IMCOM Korea Region BOSS Forum.

They are determined to fill their ranks with lots of energy to meet their goals and purposes.

"When the BOSS representatives leave this meeting there is going to be a new energy," said Sgt. Maj. Patricia Keit, Command Sgt. Maj. for Area IV. "This is an excellent way to get all the BOSS councils trained. It is not all about training; it is also about sharing ideas with other BOSS councils to make individual area BOSS events better as far as getting BOSS participation, planning events and things of that sort."

Because most Soldiers are assigned to Korea for only 12 months, there is a need for high-energy training.

"Since a lot of the Soldiers are here for only 12 months, a lot of the council members are new, even some of the command sergeants major are new," Keit said.

"They are going to take the new energy and ideas they are getting from classes on the Department of the Army

level, the BOSS coordinator and the Soldier who runs the BOSS program from the Department of Army level back to their areas and plug it into their programs."

BOSS representatives will go back to their first sergeants and company commanders and point out the many wonderful things here for the Soldier to do.

That will improve discipline because Soldiers will have things to do in clean fun, Keit said.

It will also cut down on the alcohol consumption. It's a win-win situation when we bring these BOSS councils together like this.

The Soldiers can expect to see more BOSS events in the near future," Keit said.

"There are a lot of events not promoted effectively, so with the training the councils are getting this week, events will be promoted, and we will see more of them in the near future."

Getting information about BOSS events to the Soldier is a very important point.

"All the council members are advised to talk at formations and anywhere that Soldiers are gathered, talk to the leadership and say 'hey first sergeant can I say a few words about BOSS

events at staff call,' and so on," Keit said.

"If you get everybody to buy into the BOSS program, they will realize how important the program is to Soldiers.

They will be happier and more productive at work."

Area I BOSS delegates took the opportunity to show the area to the other leaders in the BOSS program in Korea.

"We took the opportunity to show Soldiers scattered throughout the Korean peninsula who do not have a lot of opportunity to see what Area I is and to experience our distinct mission and how close we are to the demilitarized zone," said Gregg Bunce, Command Sgt. Maj. for Area I.

"This is a two-fold opportunity for the delegates. We are giving them a staff ride to the DMZ where they will see exactly what the warfighters are doing in their day-to-day business."

The Korea BOSS forum is in preparation for the Department of the Army BOSS forum to be held in April in the United States, Bunce explained.

"There are 11 BOSS councils in Korea; those councils get together and they form their boards and support that they have been working with for the past year, which relate to the three pillars of BOSS," Bunce said.

"Well being, community service and recreation are those three pillars."

The councils take the Korea BOSS forum as an opportunity for team building, making connections with other councils and showing others what they have been doing in their areas, Bunce said.

"This conference offers a great opportunity for different installations to get together and share ideas and different ways to answer the Soldier's questions in dealing with the unique situations on every single post," said Spc. Charles Sloan, Area III BOSS representative.

"We can take the ideas we gather here today back with us, and make them unique for our installation."

Most council members could tell a difference in the energy as the forum progressed.

"I see the Soldiers are more energized, and they are more affected now that the chain of command is actually helping them," said Sgt. Margaret Smith, Area I council member.

"The [first sergeants] down to the squad leaders will be more aware of what BOSS offers the Soldier and why BOSS is so special [to the warfighters] in Korea."